

The Connecticut  
Department  
of Correction



Remember Our Troops

# P.R.I.D.E.

Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence

## AT WORK



## Manson Scholarship 2005

On Friday January 14<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Correction held the Annual John R. Manson Scholarship Breakfast. Commissioner Lantz stated "This year's recipients stood out among the applicants. They had achieved a level of high scholastic achievement, donated their time to various volunteer organizations within the community and belonged to several civic organizations. It was an honor and a privilege to award these two deserving students with the John R. Manson Scholarship."

The John R. Manson Scholarship was established by friends and colleagues in memory of John R. Manson, former Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Correction.

The intent of this program is to provide financial assistance to an undergraduate student who is entering or currently enrolled at the University of Connecticut. Recipient selection is done by the John R. Manson Scholarship Fund Committee and is based on the following criteria: The recipient must be a dependent of an employee of the Department of Correction, they must show high scholastic achievement, detail their contributions to the community, and have clearly established career goals.

Carolyn Manson, widow of John R. Manson, stated to Commissioner Lantz "I am appreciative for your continued support and endorsement of the Annual Scholarship Breakfast and for your inclusion of me in this event. You make it possible for the chosen applicants to not only receive financial assistance, but to also have the opportunity to be honored and recognized for their accomplishments in a public forum, something that is priceless."

The winners of the 2005 John R. Manson Scholarship are Vinita Dora and Maurice Nelson."



(L-R) Commissioner Theresa Lantz, Vinita Dora, Rani Dora, Vijay Dora and Carolyn Manson

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### Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community reintegration

\* ~ ~ ~ ~ \*

About and for  
correctional  
professionals

January 16 -29,  
2005

Continued on Page 3, *Scholarship*

# MacDougall-Walker CI - 3rd Annual Christmas Raffle

In December, MacDougall – Walker C.I. hosted a Christmas Raffle with all proceeds going to the Hockanum Valley Community Council of Vernon, CT. The HVCC provides social services to area communities to help out the less fortunate around the holidays. This Christmas HVCC adopted about 440 - 450 families in need of a holiday meal and toys to be given to less fortunate children. Other services include Dial A Ride, which provides services to the elderly and



(L-R) Correction Officer Fred Miller, HVCC's Executive Director David Engleson and Office Assistant Stacy Nelson

disabled, a counseling department that provides services to juveniles in the court system or on probation, substance abuse, anger management, and families in crisis. HVCC has an elder care program which accommodates 243 elderly clients, 75 to 80% are over the age of 80 and living independently. In addition, HVCC helps the elderly to be able to function on their own by providing food to clients who have little or no family to support them, following an extended hospital stay. Funding for programs are raised through profits made at the "Good Cents" Thrift Store.

## From Our Troops

*The following are correspondence received from employees who are currently deployed overseas:*

**Correction Officer Sean Ryalls of Enfield CI**, "Hi everyone, we finally made it here. The flight up from Kuwait was pretty interesting. Its a lot greener than I thought it would be. The Iraqis from south of Al Kot were friendly, they waved at our Blackhawks as we flew by. But going north people were less friendly giving us the one finger salute. I saw an Iraqi sitting by a river bank with his AK-47 staring at us, it was weird. We landed safely here in Balad on the 19th. This morning three mortar rounds went off in our area around 6am, I slept through them but the alarms woke me up. Go figure, my mother always said that I could sleep through anything, I guess she's right.

Continued on Page 4, *Troops*

# Pride. *AT* Work

for  
January 16 - 29,  
2005

Distributed  
bi-weekly to 7,000  
staff and via the internet  
throughout  
Connecticut and the  
nation by the Depart-  
ment of Correction  
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Wethersfield, CT 06109  
M. Jodi Rell, Governor

Theresa C. Lantz,  
Commissioner

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# Bergin CI Staff Gives Generously

Pride at Work, Jan. 16 - 29, 2005

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After an informal conversation over a year ago about trying to get donations from the facility staff to help local families during the Holiday Season, mail handler Theresa Murphy and Chaplain Chuck Williams decided to give it a try. After hosting several fund raising events, they raised \$1,049.

The money raised was used to help three families during this past holiday season. They were able to buy holiday gifts for one family, give a bicycle and cash gift to another family, and to help the family of an officer from Bergin who had a heart attack.

The family they bought gifts for consisted of a single dad and his two sons. He is their main support, and was hurt by a drunk driver last May. They provided winter clothes, shoes, electronic items, toys and books for this family.

The second family they helped consisted of a single mom with three kids. For them they were able to provide a brand new bicycle, which was donated anonymously, and \$300 cash. When they called a social worker for the town of Mansfield to ask about who might have a need for help, they were put in touch with this single mom who had just called the social worker minutes before, asking for help! She works, but does not receive child support.

The third family they helped was that of Correction Officer John Lewerencz of Bergin CI. When they found out about his heart attack, they called him and offered assistance by helping him get his wife's holiday gifts to put his mind at ease at least as far as that went. They also were able to give his family a cash gift.

The staff at Bergin CI pulled together and helped achieve their goal in helping bless others in the community of Mansfield, where they work. On top of all the other Holiday fund-raising and activities, the staff was very generous and several people in their community were able to have a very different Holiday than they otherwise would have. The organizers stated, "with all the negative press and stereotypes of prison, it was really great to have an opportunity for positive interactions in our community. Thanks to everyone who helped out!"



Mail handler Theresa Murphy and Chaplain Chuck Williams

## Scholarship, Cont'd

Vinita Dora is a freshman Physiology and Neurobiology major enrolled in the Pre-Med Program at the University of Connecticut. She is the daughter of Vijay Dora, Accountant in the Fiscal Services Unit (Central Office) for the Department of Correction. Vinita's grade point average in high school was 95.63. Her activities at Farmington High School included playing the clarinet as a member of the wind ensemble, the Marching Band, the Symphony Orchestra, the National Honors Society, Junior Engineers Team (JETS), Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society), French Honor Society, Yearbook Committee and Prom Committee. Her civic activities included Habitat for Humanity, National Honor Society, Guka Indian Folk Dance for the India Association, as well as a volunteer at the John Dempsey Hospital and the Roncalli Health Center. During her acceptance speech at the Manson Scholarship Breakfast, Vinita expressed her deepest thanks to the Scholarship Fund Committee and Commissioner Lantz for selecting her as a recipient. She stated "From a very young age, my heart was set on becoming a doctor. This ambition has never left me as I continued my years of study. Biology class captivated me, as I was always interested in the systems of life. I hoped to pursue this field of study and want to dedicate my service to the community and apply my skills in the sciences.

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# Troops, Cont'd

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Sean Ryalls of Enfield  
CI

I am glad that we are here though. People are really nice and its like having an "extended" family. The dining facilities are good, the showers have hot water, and we have porcelain toilets. We didn't have any of these luxuries in Kuwait at Camp Udairi. Right now they have us sleeping in tents for about two weeks until there is room for us in the trailers. I can live with that for now. We plan on having internet in our rooms when we get them, which will be nice. It will make it easier to send personal emails out instead of these mass emails. I hope that you all are doing well and keep me informed of what's going around home. Talk to you soon." Sean.

**Correction Officer Paul Bourque of York CI** "Commissioner Lantz, I am writing a note of thanks for the Veteran's Day card. It is with great PRIDE and Honor that I serve, not only America and the State of Connecticut, but also the Department of Correction. I have received many e-mails from co-workers at York CI wishing me safety and a speedy return to home. The show of support from you (DOC staff) is what makes our department so special. We are truly family. Thank you so much for your support." SSG Paul Bourque.



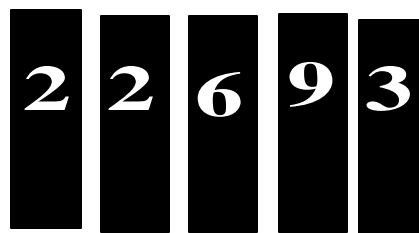
Paul Bourque of York CI

## Condolences



Warden John Sieminski and staff of MacDougall Walker CI are saddened to announce the passing of Vincenzo Graziano, father of Correctional Officer Felix Graziano, who passed away on Januray 12, 2005.

## Supervised Population on January 26, 2005



On Jan. 26, 2004 the population was 22,850.

## Crowning Achievement

Tanisha Nicole Brito, daughter of Correction Officer Cynthia Brito of York CI was recently crowned Miss Georgia U.S.A. She will compete in the Miss U.S.A. Pageant in April 2005. The winners of the Miss U.S.A. title will go on to compete in the Miss Universe Pageant.



Tanisha previously won the title of Miss Connecticut in 2002. She then went on to compete in the Miss America pageant, where she placed as one of the top ten finalists. Tanisha, who is currently working and residing in the state of Georgia, has prepared for many years to compete in these prestigious pageants. To win a title in both the Miss U.S.A. pageant and the Miss America pageant is an extraordinary accomplishment. Her family is very proud and excited for her.

Congratulations Tanisha!

# Part of the Team

Fishing? Golf? Or just sleeping-in? That's the agenda for most 55 year-olds. But not for Correction Officer Eric Farken of Hartford CC. Farken was recently named as the Honor Graduate for the latest Correctional Emergency Response Team Class. The Honor Graduate is chosen by the class and awarded to the cadet who displays the most heart and leadership ability.

Outlasting other cadets who were half his age, the two-year DOC veteran credits his discipline and determination to his nine years as a U.S. Marine. When he separated, Farken was an E-7 Gunnery Sergeant. "When you train the mind, the body follows" he says with complete sincerity and confidence. He credits his instructors for motivating him and his fellow cadets during the two weeks of intensive physical and academic training.

Of the 19 cadets who started the class, 16 graduated. In addition to initial certification, active duty CERT members also received their training and certification in weapons training. When asked why he would take on such a rigorous challenge at his advanced age, the oldest known CERT member beamed with PRIDE and stated "I just wanted to be part of the team".

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Correction Officer Eric Farken of  
Hartford CC

## Did you know?

*Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. This week's issue was submitted by Sam Kotsch who can be reached at 860-692-7564. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860-692-7554.*



Now let's talk about Sheetrock or gypsum or wallboard or drywall. We all have, at one time or another, worked with drywall; whether it was fixing small holes in the wall to full blown hanging the board off the studs. But do you know what gypsum board is?

Gypsum is a white-colored mineral; its chemical name is calcium sulfate. This mineral is mined, then crushed and dried, then ground to a powder-like consistency. After all the water has been removed it becomes Plaster of Paris. The wallboard manufacturers add various other ingredients to the Plaster of Paris, sandwich it between two sheets of specially manufactured paper, and then it becomes gypsum wallboard.

There are various grades of drywall for both interior and exterior use:

- General-purpose gypsum drywall is used mostly in commercial/residential building and comes in a range of thicknesses from 1/4", 3/8", 1/2", and 5/8", and a special board called shaftwall that is 1" thick;
- Fire-code or fire-rated drywall with a special non-combustible core;
- Water and moisture resistant drywall, also called greenboard;

Continued on Page 7, *Did you Know*

## MVP's:

Angeles, Jose	Lt	HCC
Aquino, Dawn	Lt	HCC
Archer, Joseph	CO	WCB
Bachan, Jackie	CC	McWCI
Barlie, Ninette	CSW	McWCI
Barone, Sandra	CS	McWCI
Beaudry, Michael	Capt	McWCI
Boland, Rachel	CTO	McWCI
Bradway, Brian	CCS	NCI
Briatico, Robert	CO	McWCI
Bragg, Clinton	Plmr/Steamfitter	NCI
Camp, George	CC	McWCI
Chandler, Gregory	Lt	CO
Cusano, Antonio	Lt	MYI
Dugan, James	Capt	McWCI
Fay, Anthony	CO	WCB
Fraser, Michael	CO	MYI
Greenham, Michael	CO	BrgnCI
Hutchings, Richard	CC	McWCI
Knott, Andrea	Capt	MCTSD
Kotidas, Irene	CSW	McWCI
Lambert, Leland	CO	BCI
Landry, Thomas	CFSS II	McWCI
Lindley, Christopher	CO	WCB
Maldonado, Edward	Capt	McWCI
Mangiafico, Sebastian	Capt	McWCI
Manley, Kevin	Lt	McWCI
Marinelli, Dennis	Lt	NCI
Martin, Robert	Lt	CO

# Scholarship, Cont'd

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My studies at UCONN will play a key role in helping me achieve my dreams. My acceptance to the prestigious honors program gives me an opportunity to study in a rigorous learning environment, which will help me in preparing my post-graduate studies. UCONN's reputation for its outstanding program in science will help me achieve my own career goals of becoming a doctor."

Maurice Nelson is a sophomore Education major at the University of Connecticut. He is the son of Roger Nelson, Parole Officer (New Haven District Parole Office). Maurice was on the Dean's List last semester with a cumulative GPA of 3.967. His extra-curricular activities include being a member of UCONN Democrats. He is the Production & Office Manager at the UCONN Television Station (UCTV), Outreach Team in Inter-Varsity Fellowship. His community involvement includes being a tutor at the Mansfield Middle School, Cornerstone Soup Kitchen and Youth Center in Rockville, Boston Homeless Outreach, and a volunteer with the Christ Lutheran Church at the New London Soup Kitchen. He recently completed a part-time summer position with the Pfizer Pharmaceutical Corporation as a Training Assistant in the Learning and Organizational Development Department. He thanked the agency and Commissioner Lantz for assisting him financially through this scholarship. He stated "I have found

at UCONN that learning has no limits. Through my community outreach experiences and my courses, I am more determined than ever to achieve my goal of helping people in Connecticut. My father, through example has instilled in me the kind of drive I need to succeed in my goals. Every day that I talk to him about his job and hear about how he helps reintegrate people back into society, I take pride in my father, and yearn to follow in his footsteps. There is no greater reward than civic duty and helping to change people's lives for the better."

A special thanks to Director Dan Callahan, Pam Connelly, Lise Ouellette, and Joel Schweidel for all their efforts in coordinating the Scholarship Breakfast as well as Daryl Lidwin & Bob Oliveri for the colorful and informative invitations and programs that they designed for the event.



(L-R) Commissioner Theresa Lantz, Maurice Nelson, Roger Nelson and Carolyn Manson

## Year's of Service

### Employees with 20 Years of Service as of January 2005

Armand Boucher	Correction Officer	WCB
Joseph Brown	Correction Officer	Brngn CI
Glenn Bryant	Correction Officer	McWCI
Stephen Carbone	Correction Officer	MYI
George Circosta, Jr.	Lieutenant	OCI
Kelly Clark	AssocFscI/AdminOFcr (Mgrl)	CO
Joel Crescentini	Captain	OCI
William Galberth	Correction Officer	NHCC
Theodore Holmes, Jr.	Lieutenant	GCI
Morris Hudson	Clerk Typist	CO
John Kelly	Parole Officer II	CO
Jairo Orduz	CorrIndryMgr	OCI
Lynne Palladino	Counselor Supervisor	YCI
Joan Patrick	Office Assistant	CO
Lee Pezzolesi	Correctional Locksmith	GCI
Laurel Robison	CorrLdCmryOp	CO
Kelley Rochefort	Administrative Assistant	BCI
Clifton Shannon, Jr.	Correction Officer	GCI



# Did you know?, Cont'd

- Gypsum board drywall is used for veneer plaster, also called blueboard;
- Abuse-resistant drywall is a fiberglass and heavy facing paper reinforced product designed to resist or lessen damage due to impact, indentation, and abrasion of surface and is also available in regular and fire-code gypsum core;
- Sheathing is the outer layer on exterior walls that will be covered by brick veneer, vinyl siding, or some other decorative wall finish; and
- Foilbacked creates an interior wall surface and vapor retardant in one product helping to prevent moisture from entering from outside.

These are just some of the wallboards that are available today. Here are some of the sizes of drywall panels.

The standards are 4' and 5' widths by 8', 9', 10', 12', 14', and 16' lengths. Start your first project with a 1/2" x 4' x 8' sheet, and then work your way up to a 1/2" x 5' x 16' sheet. Good luck! Contact Sam Kotsch with any questions at 860.692.7564.

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## Three Decades of Service

Commissioner Theresa Lantz is saddened to announce the passing of Retired Commandant Joseph Novak, who passed away on January 23, 2005, following 30 years of service with the Department.

Prior to his retirement in April of 2003, Commandant Novak actively promoted and supported the Department's mission through special projects and committees and was responsible for coordinating and supervising the American Correctional Association accreditation process for the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development. During his tenure, he was nominated the DOC Manager of the Year and received numerous facility recognition and service awards. In 1999, he was awarded the Tunxis Community College Visionary Award of Excellence.

Prior to his career with Connecticut, he was a member of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New York Department of Correction's Emergency Response Team and Negotiation Team.

Commandant Novak leaves his wife Helena and children Christopher and Alicia.



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## Congrats



Warden Giovanni Gomez of Garner CI is happy to announce the birth of Vincent Anthony Santopietro, son of Correction Officer James

Santopietro and his wife Maria. Vincent, who was born on December 13, 2004, weighed in at 9 pounds even and was 22 inches long. Vincent's grandfather, Vincent Anthony Santopietro, retired as Director of Security for the Department.

## Around the cell block



**Thailand-** A Bangkok prison will broadcast the final moments of death row inmates on the internet to highlight the risk of drug dealing.



**Mexico-** More than 750 federal troops with tanks and helicopters seized control of a maximum security prison where drug lords had conducted business and carried out executions.



**Louisiana-** A prize winning prison inmate journalist is free on time served after 44 years, when a fourth trial changed his conviction from murder to manslaughter.



**Russia-** Unable to control inmate access to cell phones, jamming equipment was installed in a Moscow jail which is now affecting the public's use of the phones.